

Hawaiians protest Maui hotel sale

KIHEI, Maui — A group of native Hawaiians gathered outside the Maui Sun Hotel this morning to protest its proposed sale, claiming the land belongs to the Hawaiian people.

The group, Hui Kako'o 'Aina Ho'opulapula, said the property under the 229-room resort was Hawaiian Homes land and was sold illegally by the state. About 10 people took part in the 8 a.m. protest on the sidewalk outside the hotel.

The Haggai Institute has proposed paying \$13 million for the financially troubled hotel.

Hanale Kauhi, executive director of Hui Kako'o, said the group wants the sale halted at least until the Hawaii Legislature agrees to pay a \$600-million settlement for the illegal taking of the lands.

The bill for the proposed settlement was approved by the House but is being held in the Senate Ways and Means Committee by state Sen. Donna Ikeda, said Charles Maxwell, a native Hawaiian.

Native Hawaiians say the tract was sold despite the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920 that forbids sale of the lands.

From staff and wire reports

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